Vehicular Pollution in Major Cities

190. SHRI PREM CHAND GUPTA: Will the Minister of ENVIORNMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that vehicular traffic is the most important source of pollution in all the major cities;

(b) whether the level of pollution is increasing, inspite of the preventive measures being taken, due to unrestricted growth of vehicular traffic; and

(c) if so, in what manner Government plan to control this situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABU LAL MARANDI): (a) Yes, Sir. Vehicular traffic is a major source of air pollution in all the major cities.

(b) The air pollution levels have increased in metropolitan cities. However, in case of Delhi, the Central Pollution Control Board has reported that air pollution load has decreased in 1998-99.

(c) The measures taken/proposed to be taken to control the pollution include notification of stringent emission norms, improvements in fuel quality and vehicle technology, phasing out of old commercial vehicles, promotion of' use of clean fuel, augmentation of public transport system, optmisation of traffic flow and development of road infrastructure.

Poaching of Wild Animals

191. SHRI SOLIPETA RAMACHANDRA REDDY: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether poaching of wild animals is continuing unhindered, almost throughout the country; and

(b) if so, the measures proposed to set up a voluntary task force, comprising villagers of the area, to protect wild animals and endangered birds?